



National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru  
(Ministry of Culture, Government of India)

cordially invites you for a lecture on

*RE-INVENTING TRADITION:  
A PERSPECTIVE ON MADRAS ART MOVEMENT*

By

*Ms. Ashrafi S. Bhagat, Ph.D.*

*On Saturday, 27th February, 2016 at 5pm*

Tea will be served at 4.30 pm.

Admission free to all on first come first serve basis

Venue: National Gallery of Modern Art, Auditorium  
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The development of modernity in the south particularly in the erstwhile city Madras in the early 1960s was the consequence of several factors coming together within the locus of the Madras School of Arts and Crafts founded by Dr. Alexander Hunter, a colonel in the army in 1850 as a private enterprise. It is this art institution that served as the locus in the development of modernity in Madras the foundation of which was laid by D.P Roy Chowdhury and established with regional inflections by K.C.S. Paniker. The resultant movement known as the Madras Art Movement had within its constellation artists who sensitively developed a native idiom both in the language of abstraction and figuration under the intellectual influence of Paniker who was the administrative head of the Madras School of Arts and Crafts. It is this institution that enabled the emergence of Madras Art Movement.

The lecture will focus on seminal artists who strove towards reinventing regional tradition as a deahless storehouse of energy which in the crucial decades of the 1960s enabled their visibility from the Southern region as well establish an alternative modernity that engaged with regional culture. Included within this ambit of innovators and creative experimentalists were artists as Dhanapal, Paniker, Sreenivasulu, Redappa Naidu, Santhanaraj, Sultan Ali, Munuswamy along with many others who today have marked their strong presence within the national and international circuit. A perspective on their engagement with various aspects of regional culture, visual arts traditions, modernist European and American styles, which predominantly aided in articulating their language also gave this movement a particular saliency which remains consanguine among many within it.



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